FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

18 NOVEMBER 1986

Lebanon

Israeli Raid — Israeli helicopters fired missiles at a "terrorist" target near Sidon 17 November, hitting a headquarters building belonging to the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front, Jerusalem television reported. Beirut radio said five people were injured in the attack on the 'Ayn al-Hulwah area. Palestinian sources cited by Voice of National Resistance radio stated that the latest Israeli raids near Sidon follow a 15 November Israeli-Palestinian naval clash involving an Israeli warship and two rubber dinghies. The Israelis detained one of the dinghies but sustained some casualties in the fighting, the sources said.

Amal-Palestinian Fighting — An Amal Movement statement broadcast by Beirut radio warned Palestinians in the mountains overlooking Beirut that Amal will retaliate for any more artillery attacks on the southern suburb. Palestinian shelling on 17 November produced "colossal" civilian casualties, Amal asserted. Beirut radio reported that 3 people were killed and over 25 were wounded in the shelling, stating earlier that overall casualties in the latest Burj al-Barajinah "camps war" amounted to 57 dead and 579 wounded.

In Damascus, Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad received Amal leader Nabih Birri for talks on the Lebanese situation, according to Damascus radio. Birri and other Lebanese nationalist and leftist leaders also met with Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Radio Monte Carlo reported, noting the Lebanese Communist Party leader's statement afterward that the Lebanese "national forces" have agreed to establish a new relationship and "close ranks." Damascus radio had earlier broadcast Birri's 16 November speech at the Syrian trade union conference in which the Amal leader called for a new Lebanese-Palestinian agreement giving Palestinians residing and working in Lebanon "the same rights and duties given to the Lebanese in all spheres except Lebanese nationality."

French Hostage — An anonymous spokesman for the Revolutionary Justice Organization told the Beirut paper *Al-Safir* that his group has decided to free French hostage Marcel Carton for humanitarian reasons, the clandestine Voice of the Mountain radio reported.

Iran-France

Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati in Tehran and French Foreign Minister Jean-Bernard Raimond in Paris signed a $330 million agreement in partial settlement of the financial dispute between the two countries, Paris radio reported.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

A Liberian oil tanker was damaged in an attack by an Iranian gunboat off the UAE coast the night of 17 November, according to maritime sources in Manama cited by KUNA. A fire aboard the vessel was extinguished with assistance from rescue boats.

An Iraqi military communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio stated that the two Iranian air raids on Iraqi targets hit residential areas, killing 4 civilians and wounding 40.

In diplomatic developments, KUNA reported that the Iraqi foreign minister arrived on a "surprise" visit to Kuwait to give the Kuwaiti amir a message on the war from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. Saudi King Fahd discussed the Gulf problem during talks with the visiting Italian defense minister, Rome radio noted, disclosing that Fahd expressed the view that an "urgent" change in U.S. policy is needed. As for reported Iranian differences concerning contacts with the United States, "knowledgeable Western sources" cited by Jerusalem television said the "extremist faction" has failed to stifle Iranian-U.S. contacts because a change in President 'Ali Khamene'i's position has strengthened the position of Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani's faction.

Israel

Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres dismissed President al-Asad's call for an internationally agreed definition of terrorism, telling Jerusalem radio that the Syrian leader wants "great and important people around the world" to confirm that "terrorism for the sake of liberation" is permissible. Peres said that Al-Asad's 16 November speech was entirely based on "make-believe," adding that Syrian expressions of indignation are a cover for isolation and weakness.

Libya

Fighting in Chad — A FANT communique broadcast on Ndjamena radio congratulated Goukouni's FAP forces on downing a Libyan bomber 16 November and dealing a "crushing defeat" to the "invaders" during a counteroffensive in northern Chad.

Italian Alert — Following the approach of three Libyan patrol boats "a few days ago," vigilance at military and radar installations on Italy's Pantelleria Island was increased, Rome radio disclosed.

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Speeches Continue at 16 Nov SAARC Session

Bangladesh's Ershad Speaks

BK161320 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0407 GMT 16 Nov 86

[Bangladesh President Hussein Mohammad Ershad's address at the 16 November inaugural SAARC session in Bangalore, India]

[Excerpts] Mr Chairman, distinguished heads of state and government, excellencies, the honored delegation guests: May I begin, Mr Chairman, by extending to you our most cordial felicitations on your unanimous election to the chair. You have assumed the leadership of our association and at what we envisage to be a crucial juncture when we are poised for a more dynamic phase of cooperative action. [passage omitted]

We have, I think, accomplished all that we had sought to do, or put reasonably, expected to in this period since the Dhaka summit. At Dhaka, we had formalized our collective decision to cooperate regionally. We had spelled out the organizational and institutional arrangements of our association, and we had defined with precision our goal, objective, and motivation. Since then we have been striving to consolidate our gains and to strengthen the foundation of our association. [passage omitted]

Mr Chairman, time is ripe and opportune now to take a hard look around us and within us and come to terms with reality. This will provide a clear perspective which alone can help us to decide in which direction we should now move and how quickly we have to make SAARC an effective, thriving, and living association, one from which our people could derive visible benefit. Our broad task from now should be to decide upon the most effectual factors and methods of cooperation while safeguarding the legitimate interests of our member states.

Mr Chairman, in SAARC we decide collectively and unanimously on all issues and policies, including new areas of collaboration, remaining conscious that from such decisions mutual benefits accrue to all member states. SAARC is a growing and animated process and free interplay of ideas should make for a more dynamic association. We may not shy away from new concepts. Indeed, it should clearly be in our interest to encourage new thoughts and ideas and we may always remain ready and prepared to weigh this carefully. Convention of wisdom and theory would propound that a regional arrangement, to be most effective and fruitful, should gradually expand to over some core areas of economic activity. [sentence as heard] A carefully planned expansion of our cooperation to encompass such core areas should contribute to the realization of collective objectives that we have set ourselves. This together with an intensification of our activities in the existing areas should have a healthy impact of our efforts to promote welfare of our people and improve their quality of life. [passage omitted]

Mr Chairman, the most important decision that we collectively arrived at at Dhaka last December was, of course, the launching of SAARC. We also took another decision of great significance, namely, that we should meet annually instead of biennially. I believe that some doubts have been expressed about the wisdom of annual summit on the grounds that developments in SAARC in the course of a single year might not warrant such a frequency. Such an attitude does not, I feel, adequately grasp the true significance of our meeting. We have explicitly delegated policy-making power in respect of SAARC to the Council of Ministers. Under the council, the standing committees concerned [words indistinct] more mechanical aspects of its implementation of decision and has also been vested limited policemaking authority. At the summit level, the focus and emphasis are clearly wider and it is not essential that at each of our meetings there must be new announcements of development or decision in respect of SAARC. We meet under the auspices of the SAARC as equal to give policy directive when and where it [is] deemed appropriate and, most important of all, because we cherish the benefit of wise councel. Our meetings afford the opportunity of honest communications and understanding among ourselves. SAARC has extended the concept of neighborhood and offers unique prospect deriving tangible benefit from diversity and variety. Our summit meetings amount to a vote of confidence in cooperation and a reiteration at the highest political level of our commitment to regional peace and stability, to mutual understanding, goodwill, and trust. The favorable political climate thus created will in turn influence, strengthen, and enforce cooperation and enhance economic development and social justice.

Mr Chairman, since the inception of our association, some very positive developments, although not directly related to SAARC, have taken place in our region at the bilateral level among states. For instance, following the offer of his majesty the king of Nepal at the Dhaka summit that the vast reservoir water resources could be harnessed to the benefit of millions of people, some constructive movement took place as is evident from the recent meeting of water experts in Nepal. In this way, I am happy to note that two SAARC capitals, Thimpu and Dhaka, have since been linked by air. This is in keeping with the spirit of a decision to strengthen communications among ourselves. [passage omitted]

Mr Chairman, under your leadership we expect SAARC to take significant stride in the course of the coming year. Together we should be able to move forward in confidence. We should like to assure you the full support and cooperation of my government and the people for the great task that lies ahead. [passage omitted]

Nepalese King's Address

BK161514 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0444 GMT 16 Nov 86

[Nepalese King Birendra's 16 November address at the inaugural session of Second South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation Summit in Bangalore, India — live]

[Text] Mr Chairman, your majesty, your excellencies, distinguished delegates: I should like to begin first by congratulating you, Mr Chaiman, on your assumption of the office of the chairmanship of the Second Conference of the Heads of State or Government of Countries of South Asia. I do so not only because it is part of the customary ritual, but more because in assuming this role, Mr Prime Minister, you represent a country which has a contiguous border in land or sea with all countries of our region. Indeed, it reminds me also of the burden of responsibilities placed

on your shoulder which I feel must be shared by all of us if we are to make headway to the goal of our infant association. It is true that a large country with vast population and resources, India has the capability to transform herself into one of the leading industrial nations of the world. In point of fact, she is already forging herself ahead in that direction. But the pace, indeed, in the entire region can be quickened if a condition of uninterrupted peace and stability can be built in our subcontinent. This would entail among other things a genuine respect for integrity, no less than scrupulous observance of the principles of sovereign equality to which we are all firmly committed. But it would also call for a larger vision, magnanimity, understanding, and a spirit of give and take. In a word, it is cooperation which we all seek in common for our mutual benefit.

I am sorry that his excellency, President Ziaul Haq of Pakistan, has not been able to join us here this time. But I feel confident that Pakistan's interest in SAARC continues unabated, and happy to note that she is being represented by no less a distinguished person than her able prime minister, Mr Junejo.

As each of us has an obligation to fulfill the commitment we all have pledged together in Dhaka, I am happy to be reminded of the first summit we all had the honor to attend there last December under the chairmanship of President Ershad of Bangladesh. I have no doubt that in the history of South Asia, he will be remembered for the pioneering role he has played in bringing the SAARC from concept to reality. I deem it appropriate, therefore, to record my sincere gratitude to him for the contribution he has made to our common cause.

Mr Chairman, since we met in Dhaka less than a year ago, we have set out on a road that is not only long but can also be troublesome and difficult. We have adopted the Charter and thereby formalized the birth of SAARC. As directed by the summit, our ministers and representatives have met and made recommendations about the setting up of a permanent secretariat. They have also made some important suggestions about international economic issues. They have discussed about the participation of women in development activities. They have talked about drug abuse and drug trafficking. They have also sat and deliberated upon the problem of terrorism which can plague us in the same way that they can plague anyone, any country and at any time. Not long ago, in the spirit of SAARC, our representatives also met in New Delhi and made recommendations as to the ways and means to tackle the problems of children of our region. Looking back from the point of view of SAARC, the year on the whole has been fairly eventful. The way the Governments of India, Bangladesh, and Nepal decided to sit and talk about the sharing of the multiple use of the water resources of the region for the benefit of all shows that a trend toward cooperation can be set in motion. Given mutual goodwill, a constructive approach, and a spirit of accommodation there is little that can be left unaccomplished. Let us not forget that united we form a major part of the old world that gave birth to a rich civilization and culture. The richness of our soil, rivers, and climates produced wealth and attracted many people at different times giving birth to a number of languages, beliefs, and culture. Wrongly perceived and (?well) played by others, they can act as dark forces of division and dissension among us. Let each of us...[Birendra changes thought] and each of us can be subject to destabilization. Each of us can be firm to instability. It was perhaps this fact that also prompted us to follow a policy of nonalignment.

But in such a situation there could hardly be a greater wisdom than to have an organization like SAARC that does provide us with a framework for peace and cooperation in our region. SAARC is a sober contact point from where, I believe, any gap in perception, if there be any, can be bridged slowly but surely through a process of mutual trust and confidence for the benefit of our people. Which is why, I think, we decided to meet annually so that contact at this level could contribute to smoothen [as heard] the sharp edges of differences in perception, should there be any.

May I therefore repeat what I said only 11 months ago in Dhaka. After a long winter of mistrust, coldness, and suspicion, this region of South Asia certainly looks forward to a new spring, giving birth as it was, to a new era of enlightened self-interest based on a common desire to replace conflict with cooperation, to substitute discord with harmony, and finally move from an attitude of self-centeredness to a widening horizon of contacts in the region in the spirit of reciprocity, give and take, live and let live. May God grant us all such a vision and statesmanship to meet this challenge of making the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation a vibrant reality with our people for their well-being, peace, and joy. It is in the same note that I wish to conclude my statement for the day. Thank you.

Bhutanese King Gives Speech

BK161624 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0424 GMT 16 Nov 86

[Speech by Bhutanese King Jigme Singye Wangchuk at 16 November SAARC second summit inaugural session in Bangalore, India — live]

[Text] Mr Chairman, distinguished heads of state and government, excellencies, ladies and gentlemen: I would like to begin by congratulating you warmly, Mr Chairman, on your assumption of the stewardship of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation. We have entrusted you with a responsibility of leading our regional body for next 12 months. Over the past years you have demonstrated great courage and wisdom in resolving many difficult problems both at home and in the international field. We are confident that SAARC will gain strength and vitality under your able leadership. It is indeed gratifying that our second summit is taking place in one of the most beautiful cities of a country with which Bhutan enjoys such close ties of friendship and cooperation. I have been greatly touched by the warm reception and generous hospitality accorded to me and the members of my delegation since our arrival in Bangalore. I would like to express our deep appreciation to the Government and people of India for the excellent arrangement made for this meeting. May I also express our deep gratitude to His Excellency President Hussain Mohammad Ershad of Bangladesh for his dynamic leadership of SAARC during his tenure as chairman. His good-will visits to SAARC countries have fostered a greater degeee of understanding among us and strengthened the foundations of our young association. The inspiring guidance that he has provided to SAARC during

its initial period will enable us to build on the progress already made. At the historic Dhaka summit, we established a framework of our association in a spirit of hope and enthusiasm, marked with realism. The solemn commitment we made then to bring about a new era in interstate relations in South Asia must remain the driving force for future. We must maintain the momentum of our cooperative endeavour and realize the full potential of our association for promoting peace, progress, and unity in our region. Mr Chairman, it would be unrealistic of us to overlook the influence that would be exerted on the effectiveness of SAARC by the political climate of our region. Keeping this in mind, the potential of our association to create an agreeable political climate in South Asia must be fully utilized. We must also inculcate in the minds of our peoples a sense of regional consciousness. We must encourage people- to-people contacts at all levels in order to bring about a greater awareness of each other and to generate a spirit of friendship and understanding in our region. The development of mutual trust and confidence at the people's level will go a long way in strengthening the hands of our governments to overcome past inhibitions and to take positive steps toward achieving peace and development in South Asia.

Mr Chairman, SAARC must take a firm and united stand on the question of global disarmament which has long been the focal point of numerous conferences and resolutions. We must give our full support to the various international bodies that have attached great importantce and devoted unwavering attention to this issue. We must continue to call upon the superpowers to renew their dialogue at the highest level and to take concrete steps to a gradual and complete disarmament. In our own region it has become necessary to take note of the increasing possibility of the development of nuclear weapons. We must make every effort to reverse this ominous trend. To this end, SAARC can and must play a decisive role by fostering better understanding among ourselves and creating an atmosphere conducive to the amicable settlement of differences and the promotion of peace and harmony.

In the current international economic situation where the cause for North-South negotiations and greater South-South cooperation have yet to produce tangible results, SAARC has a vital role to play in improving the quality of life of our peoples. We must intensify cooperation among member countries and harness the full potential of our region to emerge as a new area of economic growth. The 1 billion people of South Asia constitute one of the world's largest markets in terms of population. The region's rich endowments of fertile land, water, and mineral resources are precious assets that are yet to be fully developed. We also have a vast reservoir of skilled and unskilled manpower and the technological capabilities to manufacture sophisticated products. We must set aside the legacies of the past and fully exploit our inherent capacity for economic growth. It is only through an environment of peace and stability and intensive national and collective efforts that South Asia can become one of the most prosperous regions of the world.

Bhutan is pleased that a consensus has emerged on the establishment of the SAARC Secretariat in Katmandu. This secretariat will be an important instrument to promote our objectives. It will contribute to the successful execution of various SAARC activities through effective follow up, monitoring, coordination, and evaluation. It will also function as a service and information center for member states.

Mr Chairman, the time has come for us to review our past achievements and to consider the future direction of our regional body. With the experience gained during the past year, we now have a clearer perspective for the future. We should devote less time to workshops and seminars and concentrate more on concrete regional projects. The selection of such projects must be carried out carefully in order to ensure that benefits will accrue to all member states. The goals we set for ourselves must be realistic and timebound. This will impart strength and vigor to activities and give greater meaning and substance to regional cooperation. In selecting our areas of cooperation we must give priority to the economic field as it is an area of vital concern. [break in transmission for 5 minutes]

Mr Chairman, our association is only completing the 1st year of its establishment, and like all fledgling enterprises, we must assure its development with great care and attention. We are [words indistinct] with good results during its formative years and the reinforcement of the foundation we laid in Dhaka will determine the future direction and viability of our regional body. In this regard the [words indistinct] commitment and support of the leaders themselves will be the most important factor for realizing the full potential of our association. For our part we pledge our wholehearted support to you, Mr Chairman, in furthering the noble principles and objectives of SAARC. Mr Chairman, SAARC embodies the hopes and aspirations of a brilliant people. Let us work with greater determination than ever to improve the quality of their lives. Let us prove to the world that our association is a vigorous, dynamic body which will bring about an era of peace, progress, and prosperity to South Asia. I wish you all [words indistinct]. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

SAARC Leaders Hold Informal Consulations

BK161615 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 16 Nov 86

[Excerpt] The seven SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] leaders had informal consultations at Nandi Hills today where they went for a quiet retreat after the inauguration ceremony of the second summit in Bangalore this morning.

The All India Radio special correspondent, Harish Segon, reports after visiting Nandi Hills that the retreat provided an ideal setting for the SAARC leaders to thrash out the contentious issues affecting their countries.

Our correspondent understands that Mr Gandhi and the Sri Lankan president, Mr Jayewardene, continued their deliberations in a bid to find a peaceful solution to the ethnic problem to the satisfaction of all concerned parties. The prime minister also had informal parleys with other leaders. The SAARC leaders met separately and exchanged views on several issues.

After the return of the leaders from Nandi Hills to Bangalore, the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, had separate meetings

with the Bangladesh president, General Ershad, and the King of Bhutan Jigme Singye Wangchuk. Mr Gandhi also had a meeting with King Birendra of Nepal. [passage omitted]

Dhaka Reports Ershad-Gandhi 16 Nov Talks
BK171058 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
0110 GMT 17 Nov 86

[Text] The current chairman of SAARC, Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi of India, called on President Ershad at his hotel suite last evening [16 November]. The two leaders, during their discussion, made considerable progress on the question of water sharing and transfer of Tin Bigha corridor to Bangladesh. The Indian prime minister agreed to take the necessary measures in the light of the judgment of the Calcutta High Court to expedite the process of handing over Tin Bigha to Bangladesh. Other bilateral matters also came up during the meeting which lasted for about an hour. Foreign Minister Humayun Rashid Chowdhury, Flood and Irrigation Minister Anisul Islam Mahmud, and Indian Foreign Minister Narayan Dutta Tiwari were also present on the occasion.

Junejo Meets Bangladesh's Ershad, Nepal's King
BK160332 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 16 Nov 86

[Text] The Second South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation Summit begins in the Indian city of Bangalore today. Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo, who is now in Bangalore, has met with Bangladesh President Hussain Mohammad Ershad and Nepalese King Bir Bikram Shah Dev Birendra.

The prime minister commended Ershad's efforts during his chairmanship of the SAARC for promoting goodwill and understanding among South Asian nations. It is therefore appropriate, he said, that the first SAARC secretary general should be appointed from Bangladesh. Radio Pakistan's special representative Safdar Ahad has reported from Bangalore that the two leaders also discussed ways to make the second SAARC summit a success. They reviewed bilateral relations and expressed satisfaction at the increasing goodwill between the two countries. They also referred to the establishment of new democratic system in both the countries.

The prime minister had a 35-minute meeting with Nepalese King Bir Bikram Shah Dev Birendra. The two leaders exchanged views on the positive efforts under the framework of the SAARC for regional cooperation. They agreed that the SAARC has contributed toward enhancing the prestige of the South Asian nations in the community of nations. They expressed satisfaction at the fact that the international community has begun to recognize SAARC as a force for maintaining peace and stability in this region. Prime Minister Junejo emphasized that meetings such as the Bangalore summit not only promote multilateral cooperation, but also provide an opportunity to establish contacts and exchange views at the highest level. The leaders also get an opportunity to meet each other and discuss bilateral issues with any country's leader of the region. The prime minister also reaffirmed his resolve to promote good-neighborly relations with all SAARC nations, especially with Nepal.

The Nepalese king reciprocated the prime minister's sentiments and expressed the confidence that friendly contacts between the two countries will further improve existing bilateral relations.

Indian, Pakistani Clashes Continue in Kashmir

BK180847 Hong Kong AFP in English 0847 GMT 18 Nov 86

[Text] New Delhi, Nov 18 (AFP) — Indian and Pakistani troops have been exchanging intermittent but regular fire along the Indo-Pakistan border in the disputed region of Kashmir for nearly a fortnight, the *Press Trust of India* (PTI) said Tuesday.

The latest round of hostilities began after Indian troops objected to the digging of trenches by the Pakistanis in border villages near Punch Town in the northern state of Kashmir, a third of which is controlled by Pakistan, the news agency said. Indian Defence Ministry sources here said they were not aware of the border clashes. The Pakistani Embassy refused to comment.

PTI said Pakistani troops had dug in at Bagyaldara, Sokar, and Kurrmarrah areas near Punch, where similar border clashes were reported more than two months ago.

Officials said in Jammu, the state's winter capital, that four Pakistanis were killed in a four-hour exchange of fire between Indian and Pakistani troops along the Kashmir border on November 8. Indian border guards and troops have also foiled repeated attempts by intruders trained in Pakistan to infiltrate into Kashmir to allegedly sabotage elections to the State Legislative Assembly scheduled for March, the officials added.

The incidents occurred as India and Pakistan agreed on Monday in Bangalore, south India, to hold secretary-level bilateral talks next month in Lahore to improve relations that have been strained in recent months, PTI said.

PTI said Kashmir's border with Pakistan had been sealed — a euphemism for strengthening of border guards in the area — following the firing in which several civilians, mostly farmers, were reportedly wounded.

In 1947 Pakistan invaded Kashmir, formerly a princely state that opted to join India when the British Indian Empire was partitioned on independence into Pakistan and India. India and Pakistan fought a second war in 1965 over Kashmir, India's only predominantly Moslem state.

A line of control delineated bilaterally after renewed hostilies in 1971 is still disputed, particularly in the Siachen Glacier area of the Himalayas. Exchanges of fire are frequently reported from the line of control by the Indian press. Since May 1985 about 150 soldiers have been killed in the Siachen area, according to Indian figures.

PTI said two Pakistanis arrested at a hotel in Jammu city on November 5 had confessed to Indian military interrogators that they were spies sent by Islamabad on sabotage missions. They were not identified.

Indian troops moved in large numbers into strategic areas of the Indo-Pakistan border last week for major manoeuvres. Pakistani Defence Ministry sources in Islamabad described the Indian troop deployment as New Delhi's "internal affair."

'Supporters' of 'Terrorism' in Punjab Warned

BK181559 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 18 Nov 86

[Text] The home minister, Mr Buta Singh, declared in the Lok Sabha today that all those sheltering and giving support to terrorists in Punjab are enemies of the country and will be dealt with accordingly. Replying to a 4 and 1/2 hour special discussion on the recent spurt in terrorist activities in Punjab and other parts of the country, Mr Buta Singh appealed to all political parties to join and mobilize the masses against the terrorists and isolate them. Mr Buta Singh said that the forces that are encouraging terrorists in the name of religion are indeed with fire which might destroy them. He criticized the Akali Dal faction led by Mr P.S. Badal for openly supporting the terrorists and making them martyrs by attending their bhog [religious] ceremonies.

Refuting the allegation that innocent people are being harassed by the security forces, Mr Buta Singh said the state government has given clear instructions to exercise utmost caution. He reiterated that the center will extend all possible help to the Punjab government headed by Mr Barnala who is dealing with a very difficult situation created by the dissident Akalis as they could not get power.

Referring to violence in Tripura and Nagaland, the home minister said that the center is extending necessary help to the state governments to deal with the underground elements. He said the situation in Assam cannot be compared to that of Punjab. A comprehensive scheme has already been drawn up to seal the border in Assam and necessary funds are being allocated and material mobilized.

Earlier, initiating the discussion, Mr (Bhachan Sriramamurthy), Telugu Desam, said the government has not been able to discharge its duty of maintaining law and order. He said terrorism, so far confined to Punjab, has spread to other parts of the country. Members from both sides called for immediate steps to curb terrorism. Several opposition members extended support of their parties to the government in this task. There was a demand that government should come out with a white paper on the training of terrorists in Pakistan. Several members demanded sealing of the western border.

Curfew Reimposed in Hoshiarpur 17 Nov

BK171622 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 17 Nov 86

[Text] In Punjab, curfew was imposed again in the district town of Hoshiarpur today from 1900 this evening. It will be in force till 0800 tomorrow morning. An official spokesman told our Chandigarh correspondent that the step has been taken as a precautionary measure following some minor incidents during the day. Police are patrolling sensitive areas and security forces are guarding vital installations. All educational institutions have been closed in the town. In Jullundur also, educational institutions have been closed due to the law and order situation.

Tamil Eelam Radio Urges Talks With Government

BK170100 (Clandestine) Voice of Tamil Eelam in Tamil 1330 GMT 12 Nov 86

[News commentary]

[Text] A careful review of recent events in India clearly shows that the Central Government of India and Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.G. Ramachandran [MGR] are determined to bring the freedom fighters and the Sri Lankan Government together for talks and establish peace in Tamil Eelam. Although the Central Government of India announced that it knew nothing about the arrest of the freedom fighters made on Saturday [8 November], it is certain that without its assistance, the arrests could not have taken place. It is known that on the same day MGR was in New Delhi for a prearranged meeting with Gandhi. There is no element of doubt that the denouncing by the Eelam National Liberation Front of the Sri Lankan Government's peace proposals and the subsequent involvement of Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front [EPRLF] members thereafter in the events on deepavali [hindu religious festival that falls on 1 November] day led to the arrest of the leaders of the freedom fighters and the manner in which they were treated. Besides, all these incidents show to what extent the central government can exploit the state government and how cleverly it can handle matters concerning the Tamil Eelam freedom fighters in order to sway public opinion.

The Tamil Eelam Communist Party would like to point out the following. Firstly, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam [LTTE] is not the only organization that totally denounced the Sri Lankan Government's peace proposals in the written reply submitted to MGR by the freedom fighters. The newspaper, *(?The Hindu)* which backs the policies of the Tamil Nadu Government expressed its opinion by giving prominence to the release of the freedom fighters and calling for them to attend talks with the Sri Lankan Government. This is also MGR's wish as well as the Tamil Nadu government's official policy. For a long time we have been pointing this out. The Tamil Eelam National Liberation Front is quite categorical in denouncing these proposals. This tendency of theirs only became a warning to the Central Government of India.

The incident involving the EPRLF and a mob in Madras has affected the position of the freedom fighters in Tamil Nadu. Those who have been acknowledged as guests and friends should never have behaved like that. When we think about the fact that the people of Tamil Nadu did not raise any hue and cry about the arrests made on Saturday, we can understand that the people's support to the freedom fighters is diminishing. The opposition leader, Karunanidhi, refused to comment on the arrest of the freedom fighters. He only expressed the view that the problem of the Tamil Eelam people can only be solved politically. The activities of other groups have affected the innocent and poor Liberation Tigers only. This has resulted in the loss of their weapons and other expensive equipment, besides affecting their dignity and honor. The Tamil Eelam Communist Party would like to express its sympathy and solidarity with the Liberation Tigers. They have not stated any reason for the manner in which they were treated.

We have said from the beginning that indiscipline will not make the current struggle for a Tamil Eelam successful. We have also advised other groups to work unitedly with the Liberation Tigers because the LTTE is not only a powerful and also a most disciplined organization but also has the capacity to hold talks with the Sri Lankan Government. We have great sympathy with Comrade Prabhakaran and Anton Balasingham in this regard, but there is no use in brooding over the past. The indisciplined, foolish behavior of some groups and the stand of (?MGR) have given unprecedented strength to the Sri Lankan Government before world opinion. Therefore, we would like to urge the Tamil Eelam fighters to assess the real situation in this struggle and gain victory. Let us sink our differences and take part in the talks with the Sri Lankan Government. Otherwise, we may have to sacrifice all the objectives we have been fighting for and may have to resume our struggle afresh. We cannot conduct ourselves to satisfy the expectations of the governments of Rajiv Gandhi and Jayewardene. We have already said that they are reactionaries. It is clear that together they will be a hindrance to our struggle. We would like to point out that the Tamil Eelam Communist Party is ready to rejuvenate the leaders of the groups fighting for freedom. We are not a force to fight and neither are we a strong political power. We are bound to guide, counsel, patronize, and encourage any step taken for the benefit of the people of Tamil Eelam. The people will have the opportunity to know about us soon. Till then we will help our comrade Liberation Tigers create a political situation that will enable true socialist principles to be followed. Based on this, we call upon you to extend your cooperation to form a socialist Tamil Eelam.

LTTE Leader Flown to Bangalore for Talks

BK170433 Hong Kong AFP in English 0427 GMT 17 Nov 86

[Excerpt] Bangalore, India, Nov 17 (AFP) — A top Tamil militant leader was flown to Bangalore late Sunday to join talks between Indian and Sri Lankan officials on a political settlement of the island nation's ethnic conflict, officials said.

Velupillai Prabhakaran, the leader of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), and two LTTE colleagues were flown to Bangalore by a special plane as the talks entered a "delicate state," Indian officials said.

The talks that continued till early Monday centered on a Tamil demand for the merger of Sri Lanka's northern and eastern provinces into a single Tamil unit.

Colombo's delegation was understood to have offered to split the eastern Province into three provinces, including the Tamil-dominated Batticaloa, after rejecting the Tamil demand as impratical. The offer included setting up a commission to determine northern Tamil majority areas to be delinked and attached to the Tamil province carved out of the eastern part of the island, officials said.

Officials refused to confirm or deny reports that a major announcement on a settlement of the ethnic conflict was to be made. [passage omitted]

Khamene'i Visits Mazandaran for Unity Week

Hails Montezari's Unity Activities

LD171153 Tehran IRNA in English 1130 GMT 17 Nov 86

[Text] Sari, Mazandaran Prov., Nov 17, IRNA — President 'Ali Khamene'i arrived here Monday to attend the unity week ceremonies and to meet with local authorities, leaders of Friday prayers and Sunni Muslims of Gorgan and Gonbad regions, northern Iran.

The president was accompanied by high presidential advisor, Mustafa Mirsalim, deputy prime minister for executive affairs, Hamid Mirzadeh, and four Majlis deputies of the province.

In a brief talk on his arrival, the president said that the objective of his trip was to be informed of current issues and problems of the province which is one of the most important agricultural poles of the country.

Hailing Ayatollah Montazeri's unity week initiative, President Khamene'i said that the Islamic Revolution of Iran was by its nature a unity-creating source adding that effective outcomes of unity week are being experienced in the world at present. He said that reports of the world mass media indicate that people in various countries voice unity slogans with the Iranian nation.

The president said that today various Islamic sects which are members of the big Muslim nation feel united with each other and stressed that this feeling should be strengthened.

Referring to the propaganda brawls of Western mass media on the fateful attack of Muslim combatants of Iran, President Khamene'i said that the enemies of Islam stage propaganda campaign and get panicked whenever the Islamic Republic make advances or when people speed up their movement.

The readiness of Muslim forces for launching their determining attack has disturbed comfort of the enemies, stressed the president.

The president stressed that today the future of the Islamic Revolution and the Iraqi imposed war is more clear than ever, adding that victory is imminent.

Says World Awaits Final Offensive

LD171556 Tehran IRNA in English 1545 GMT 17 Nov 86

[Text] Sari, Mazandaran Prov., Nov 17, IRNA — President 'Ali Khamene'i said here Monday that Muslim forces of Iran stationed along the 1,400 km frontline of the Iraqi-imposed war will deal the final blow on the Ba'thist Iraqi troops when the command for the fateful offensive is issued.

The president, here on an inspection tour of the province, reiterated that the world awaits with great concern the crucial moment when Iranian forces launch their final offensive. Said the president, "Iranian forces will end the war victoriously."

"Our people, in the noble spirit of resistance and Islamic belief are fighting the global arrogance," the president said.

Khamene'i who is also head of the Supreme Defense Council (SDC) furthermore said that once the Muslim forces of Iran triumph over Iraqi troops in the imposed war, the hands of the imperialist powers will be cut off from the region and that they would not be able to humiliate Arab or non-Arab Muslim countries any more.

The Muslim world is now facing a critical situation because the wealth and natural resources of Muslim states are being plundered by the global arrogance and because the corrupt Western culture is prevailing in these countries, Khamene'i said.

Elsewhere in his speech, President Khamene'i reiterated that the Islamic Republic of Iran has never hesitated and will never hesitate to fight the arrogant powers and that these powers have been greatly panicked in the face of the Islamic Revolution.

Views Military, Political Advantage

LD171726 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 17 Nov 86

[Text] Continuing his visit to Mazandaran President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i this afternoon took part in the special gathering of the families of martyrs from Gorgan and Torkaman Darreh regions on the occasion of the anniversary of the birth of the Holy Prophet, God's blessings be upon him and his kin, and the unity week. In a speech he enumerated the successes and victories of the Islamic Republic in the political, military, and economic fields.

In these ceremonies, emphasizing the great role of the martyrs in the Islamic Revolution, Mr Khamene'i referred to the military and political victories of the Islamic Republic saying: Today we are at the end of our hard struggle and we are not far from final victory. Today the greatness and self-sacrifice of brave youths of the martyr-nurturing Iranian nation has produced its results and today the world looks with respect at our nation, and all have admitted that our nation is worthy of victory.

Mr Khamene'i added: Today, in addition to the fact that we hold the advantage militarily we also hold the advantage in the political struggle. The whole world has witnessed how the U.S. Government was humiliated by the political maneuvering of the Islamic Republic. Today the Islamic Republic has taken the offensive from a political point of view, and now it is the turn of the enemies of Islam to adopt a defensive stance.

In the end, the president described the future of the Islamic Republic as bright and successful. While paying tribute to the families of martyrs, the missing, POW's, and disabled individuals from Gorgan and Torkaman Darreh, Mr Khamene'i said that it is the main duty of the Muslim Iranian nation to follow the path of the martyrs.

Views Need for Unity, Cooperation

NC181043 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0430 GMT 18 Nov 86

[Text] President Khamene'i met with Sunni and Shi'ite clergymen from Gorgan and Dasht in the Gorgan Governorate last evening as part of his visit to Mazandaran Province. During this meeting, the president outlined the great responsibility which clergymen bear in ensuring unity and maintaining support for the government and its officials. He also gave an extensive explanation of various Islamic issues.

In his remarks on the third day of Unity Week, the president emphasized the need for unity between Sunni and Shi'ite clergymen. He said: We have shown that Shi'ites and Sunnis can coexist fraternally. They should undertake discussions and exchange ideas. There should not be any differences. He added: Shi'ite and Sunni coexistence is an experience for the Islamic world. The thesis which says that there is a lack of such harmony between Shi'ites and Sunnis should be condemned. Sunni and Shi'ite communities in general should follow your example. You must influence them by your exemplary unity. He stressed: Sunni and Shi'ite clergymen are responsible for safeguarding Islam today.

The second obligation of the clergy, Mr Khamene'i affirmed, is to give decisive support and allegiance to the hallowed government, officials, and leaders of the Islamic Republic. He added: Clergymen must cooperate with Iranian officials, assisting them in their work and promoting the revolutionary system of our country. World oppression today is trying to weaken our country's government and sacred system through various tactics and ruses. The clergy are obligated to support, obey, and cooperate with the government. This applies to all components of our administrative machinery, including the executive, the judiciary, and the military and law enforcement forces. We must cooperate with our officials and support them as much as possible.

The president noted that the third responsibility of clergymen is to explain and clarify Islamic issues for the people. He said: Iran plays an effective role within Islamic countries, as well as on the international political stage. The world's political planners cannot do anything without taking the revolution and the Islamic Republic into account. Iran has acquired a special prestige in the world today.

Mr Khamene'i added: Those who wished to curry favor with the United States tried to decrease their contacts with us. They are now in an anxious state. We have laid down conditions for them to change their policies vis-a-vis the world's oppressed nations. The Islamic Republic of Iran is experiencing a state of maximum stability, security, and faith in God and its revolutionary people, the president stressed. As it continues to march forward, he stated, the obligations of the clergy with regard to cultural issues will become even greater.

During his visit to Mazandaran Province, Mr Khamene'i also attended ceremonies to mark the birth of the esteemed prophet of Islam, God's blessings be upon him, and his descendants at Hey'at-e Maktab al-Hoseyn Hoseyniyeh [religious center] in Gorgan. He then met with local residents and the families of martyrs to whom he explained the role of the Islamic Revolution with regard to the politics of holy war. The chief of the Supreme Defense Council said: I confidently assert that we are nearing the end of our relentless struggle. Before long, we will attain final victory. He added: We see a bright economic outlook for the future. This is the blessing gained by the blood of our martyrs. Your youths have not only inspired hope in the world, they have also given their leaders and government courage and perseverance. Leaders from other countries tell us that they have learned the lesson of persistence and fortitude from our people.

Referring to the martyrs of this city, the president stated: On various fronts today we have the upper hand and the initiative. You saw how the President of the Disunited States has been politically degraded, how he has been confronted by political maneuvering; in other words, a political onslaught.

Alluding to the martyrs of Iran, Mr Khamene'i said: A country which some centuries ago had been dragged down by cultural, political, and military means has nevertheless been able to bring about a great change in the political atmosphere of the world. Those who played a role in this grandiose historical phenomenon have brought about a liberating and major revolution despite all opposition and threats. Their struggle against the former corrupt system has conveyed a message to the world.

Montazeri Praised on Unity Week 'Initiative'

LD161719 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 16 Nov 86

[Excerpt] At today's Majlis open session, in a speech about Unity Week, speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani said:

On the first day of Unity Week, it is necessary to praise Grand Ayatollah Montazeri, the successor to the leadership, for this positive initiative. Many results and blessings for the Islamic world as well as great influence upon world history and the future will follow if attention is paid to this initiative and it becomes a reality. We expect all responsible authorities in our country as well as all Islamic dignitaries throughout the world to heed this invaluable initiative and to see this time as an opportunity to make efforts for unifying the Islamic world which has been afflicted by differences due to discords fomented by its enemies.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani added: We can fulfill the right of Islam by relying on our unity; but we will not provide anything except damage for Islam if we have differences. [passage omitted]

Ayatollah Montazeri Discusses Muslim Unity

LD121327 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 12 Nov 86

[Excerpts] On the eve of Unity Week, Grand Ayatollah Montazeri, at the end of his lesson on jurisprudence this morning, referring to Unity Week and the need to pay attention to propaganda work of the fronts, said:

I have repeatedly said that when we talk of Muslim unity, which is being raised during this week, this does not mean that the

Shi'ites or other sects should give up their true beliefs and their jurisprudence. The aim is that while Muslims follow their own beliefs, concepts, and jurisprudence, they remain united against the enemies of Islam and the plans of the U.S., the Soviet Union, and Israel, and that they not make an issue of their minor differences. [passage omitted]

Grand Ayatollah Montazeri stressed: All differences which exist in the world of Islam have their roots in America, in Zionism, and in the enemies of Islam. Today in Muslim countries, the agents of America and Zionism, with the money and facilities of Muslims which should be spent on Islam and the Muslims, are trying to insult what is regarded as sacred by the Shi'ites through the publication of misleading books and pamphlets against Shi'ism. On the one hand, they are trying to distort the features of Shi'ism in the world; and on the other hand, they are trying to create disunity among Shi'ites and Sunnis and to give rise to misunderstanding, hostility and violence amid the various Muslim sects.

They do this so much so that each day in Lebanon, Pakistan, and India we see that they try to create clashes among Sunnis and Shi'ites so that they kill other Muslims with their own hands; while the enemies of Islam and the Koran reap the benefits of these clashes. [passage omitted]

In conclusion, Grand Ayatollah Montazeri prayed for the final victory of the fighters of Islam, and the health and longevity of the imam of the nation.

Musavi Addresses Unity Week Seminar 17 Nov

LD171700 Tehran IRNA in English 1632 GMT 17 Nov 86

[Text] Sanandaj, Kordestan Prov., Nov 17, IRNA — A speaker at the Unity Week seminar which opened here Sunday said Monday that more than six thousand Kurdish-populated villages in Iraq have been destroyed by the Baghdad government.

The speaker who made the remark was the theologians' council secretary of Iraq's Kurdistan, Mollah Seyyed Latif Barzanji.

Imam Khomeyni's representative in Kordestan, Hojatt ol-Eslam Musavi said that colonizers have attempted to exploit the differences of opinions among the various Muslim sects, and that wherever they were successful in doing so they were able to influence their thinking. "We should do our best to fight against such evil promptings", Hoj. Musavi added.

The seminar was opened here Sunday on the occasion of the birth anniversary of Prophet Mohammad (saw) and the Unity Week.

Over 300 theologians and Muslim scientists [word indistinct] Pakistan, Senegal, [word indistinct] Muslim unity and issues of the world of Islam.

Velayati To Explain U.S. Visit Before Majlis

LD171914 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1712 GMT 17 Nov 86

[Text] Tehran, November 17 (TANJUG) — The Iranian foreign minister has been requested to explain to parliament the secret visit to Tehran of U.S. President Reagan's envoy Robert McFarlane. The evening newspaper *Resalat* [as received] reports today that Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati has been requested to explain to the public what exactly transpired regarding Iranian-U.S. relations. He has also been asked to provide an explanation as to who negotiated with Reagan's envoy and the outcome of the negotiations.

The five-day visit of Reagan's envoys to Tehran which Iran's highest ranking officials termed as "unwelcome" and stated that the envoys were "uninviteu", has not been totally clarified in Tehran. To date Iranian officials have termed the visit a "futile" attempt by the White House to curry favour with the Islamic Republic and by offering it arms to elicit aid in the release of hostages from Lebanon.

The parliament of the Islamic Republic which holds "anti-Americanism" as one of its most important revolutionary principles has now requested Foreign Minister Velayati to explain "which officials and authorities decided to establish links" with Washington. In the event that individuals outside the Ministry of Foreign Affairs participated in the talks with the U.S. envoys, the foreign minister is requested to explain who authorized them to do so.

Envoy to UN on Positive Change in U.S. Policy

LD160953 Tehran IRNA in English 0940 GMT 16 Nov 86

[Text] Washington, Nov 16, IRNA — Iran's permanent envoy to the United Nations, Seyyed Rajaie-Khorassani said here Saturday that President Reagan's recent remarks on relations with Iran indicate that the U.S. Administration has adopted a realistic policy towards Iran. "It shows a drastic change in U.S. policy towards Iran," he said.

In an interview with IRNA, the Iranian envoy added that the White House has come to admit the strategic power, independence, and historical and cultural identity of the Islamic Republic. The fact that the U.S. Administration, as the Majlis speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani said, was willing to resume ties with Iran is the core of Reagan's statement, he added. "We must consider this as a positive development in U.S. foreign policy," he said. He added that America's recognition of the Islamic Revolution of Iran, "is a 180 degree change in U.S. foreign policy."

The imminent victory of Iran's Islamic forces in the Iraqi-imposed war was the U.S. motive to establish contacts with the Islamic Republic, he said. The White House launched this attempt once it realised who is the power in the region and who plays a determining role in the stability of the region, he added.

On American hostages in Lebanon, he said the U.S. President tried to convince the American public that instead of negotiating

with the captors it would be better to talk with a government which enjoys power and has influence among Lebanese Muslims.

The justification was that if the matter was to be solved through an influential mediator, Iran was the right choice, and, therefore, some of the their demands including supply of 'defensive' arms to Iran must be met, he added.

Rajaie-Khorassani described as unfounded the claim by the former U.S. president advisor, Robert McFarlane that an Israeli official had mediated between Iran and the U.S. There were many who could play role of the mediator, including the Japanese prime minister, Saudi or Pakistani leaders; these are the people who are respected by the Islamic Republic of Iran, said Rajaie-Khorassani.

The Iranian UN envoy also refuted McFarlane's denying that he had taken a cake, pistols and a copy of the Bible for the Iranian officials. He said a photo copy of the Bible was available as well as other information which if McFarlane insisted, would be made public.

On reaction of Arab states and other Muslim countries towards the development, he said that it would not be harmonious and there were two sides to the matter. On the one hand, Arab states which have ties with the U.S. would most probably welcome the development.

Those Arab states having no relations with the U.S. would not be pleased. Attitude of Egypt will be different from that of Libya, Syria, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates, he added.

More on the same issue he said the Arab front line countries such as Syria and Libya should beware U.S. schemes to sow discord between Iran, Libya, and Syria.

Rajaie-Khorassani stressed that the U.S. Administration should pay Iran's due debts and "I suppose it is acceptable at this level." However, he added, they (the U.S.) should not be very optimistic. The issue must be handled carefully.

On future developments, he said that the U.S. is obliged to meet some of its obligations towards Iran, if they do so the maximum they will receive is to mediate to solve American problems in Lebanon.

When asked about the establishment of relations between Iran and U.S., Rajaie-Khorassani said that it will not happen easily and that people will not tolerate it.

The U.S. problem in the Middle East is not only giving Iran what it owes but also to recognize rights of the Lebanese people and stop supporting Israel. The U.S., he pointed out, must either chose Israel or Muslims, both would be impossible. "As long as the U.S. backs Israel, it is an enemy and there is no argument about it," he stressed.

In conclusion he said that if the U.S. by establishing contacts with the Islamic Republic of Iran intends to mediate in the Iraqi-imposed war and end it in the manner it desires, it is 100 percent mistaken. They (the U.S.) will not have any success in Lebanon, he added.

Therefore, he said, "I am not very optimistic that they will be able to achieve a great deal but I am not going to rush and will let them express their views so that we will see what they are after."

It may be, he added, that by giving the Islamic Republic of Iran concessions, on the one hand, and insulting Libya on the other hand, the U.S. plans to sow discord and, therefore, one must be cautious about these efforts.

4 Point Agreement Said Reached With U.S.

PM171436 Paris LE MONDE in French 15 Nov 86 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Agreement Reached Makes Provision for Saddam Husayn's Departure"]

[Excerpt] According to former Iranian President Bani-Sadr, a four-point agreement was reached by the United States and Iran during secret contacts which recently took place between the two countries. The first point apparently relates to the future of relations between Washington and the Tehran regime, and the Americans have promised to back and support the moderate faction now in power under the leadership of Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Rafsanjani.

There is apparently also complete agreement on the Iraqi regime's future. The two sides reportedly agreed on a solution to the problem of the Gulf war based on the departure of President Saddam Husayn and some of his close aides. However, the Iraqi Ba'th Party as such would remain in power to prevent the victory of those who are advocating "the Syrian Ba'th Party as an alternative."

The third point apparently relates to an end to terrorist activities organized or backed by Iran and the release of all the hostages held in Lebanon. Finally, the last point apparently advocates a joint U.S.-Iranian policy on OPEC, with the first measure being the stabilization of the price at $18 per barrel. [passage omitted]

Spokesman Denies Negotiating for Landrovers

LD171502 Tehran IRNA in English 1454 GMT 17 Nov 86

[Text] Tehran, Nov 17, IRNA — A spokesman for the Heavy Industries Ministry categorically refuted here Sunday claims that Iran was conducting negotiations with Britain to purchase landrover cars.

Several British dailies recently quoted a landrover company official as claiming that talks were underway to sell landrovers to Iran at 30 million dollars.

"The cars will not be shipped to Iran until Iran gives assurances they would not use them at the war fronts", the dailies quoted the official as saying.

The spokesman said that landrovers now in Iran's possession have not been converted for military use and that they cannot serve the purpose.

The ministry is studying projects, said the spokesman, and landrover production will soon be phased out in Iran and replaced with other projects.

4 Involved in 19 Aug Car Bomb Blast Arrested

LD161121 Tehran IRNA in English 1100 GMT 16 Nov 86

[Text] Tehran, Nov 16, IRNA — Four agents responsible for August 19 explosion of a car bomb at Tehran's Ferdowsi Square have been arrested, the Public Relations Office of the Information Ministry announced here Sunday.

The terrorist agents had received 220 pounds (about 110 kgs) of explosives from the Iraqi regime for another explosion in the capital city but were arrested before carrying out their vicious attempt.

Six civilians were martyred and scores of others injured when a car bomb went off at Ferdowsi Square, central Tehran, on August 19.

Poland's Andrzej Wojcik Continues Visit

Holds 'Final' Meeting With Ja'fari

LD171410 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 17 Nov 86

[Text] According to our correspondent's report, during the final meeting between the Iranian and Polish commerce ministers, which was held this morning at the Iran Telegraph Center, the two sides praised the success of the talks and expressed the hope that relations between Iran and Poland will expand as much as possible.

The two sides agreed to raise the volume of trade in goods to $200 million next year. It has been forecast that in exchange for export goods such as dried fruit, mineral ore, fresh fruit, and assorted vehicles, Poland will supply metallic, chemical, and plastic goods, paper and trawlers.

In the technical-industrial field the two countries will cooperate on various projects, including the manufacture of parts for accelerators, cooling systems for stone-grinders, the moulding of precision parts, paper-making, furnaces for lead and zinc mines, the expansion and modernization of sugar plants, food industry projects, mining, industrial cotton-wool, the manufacture of boilers and turbines, the construction of cooling towers for power stations, the training of fishing experts, small projects for rural industries, the production of nails and screws, metallic and iron lattices, and simple agricultural equipment. According to this report, the Polish foreign trade minister invited Commerce Minister Ja'fari to take part in the next session to be held in Poland.

Received by Velayati

LD171807 Tehran IRNA in English 1726 GMT 17 Nov 86

[Text] Tehran, Nov 17, IRNA — Polish leaders are interested in expanding Tehran-Warsaw political, economic, and commercial relations, said visiting Foreign Trade Minister Andrzej Wojcik in a meeting with Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati here Monday.

The Polish Trade [words indistinct] his talks with Iranian officials as "fruitful".

In response, Velayati expressed hope that Wojcik's talks with Iranian officials would serve to promote Iran-Poland cooperation in economic, technical, and commercial fields.

Wojcik and his accompanying delegation arrived here on November 13.

OPEC Pricing Committee Results Reviewed

NC171522 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 17 Nov 86

[Central News Unit Research Group commentary: "The Conclusion of OPEC's Price-Fixing Committee's Session"]

[Text] The OPEC pricing committee meeting, chaired by the Kuwaiti oil minister, concluded in Quito, Ecuador on Friday. At the 79th OPEC session this committee, comprised of the oil ministers of Libya, Kuwait, and Ecuador, was instructed to study and assess OPEC's system of setting prices and the fixing of a new price per barrel of crude and to submit its views for final approval to the next OPEC session in December.

At the conclusion of the committee's meeting, the Kuwaiti oil minister told correspondents that it had been decided that OPEC should return to its policy of fixed prices and approve a price of $18 per barrel. He also stated that the basic price which concurred upon by all the members should conform with a basket of prices of various crudes produced by OPEC members and Mexico in accordance with their suitability.

The OPEC pricing committee did not make any decisions on quotas. Another committee of OPEC experts is to meet in late November to discuss OPEC production ceilings and each member's quota in order to achieve the $18 price.

A return to the system of fixed prices means that OPEC will announce a specific price for one barrel of crude and this decision will be binding on the members. Hitherto, the price of a barrel of Saudi light crude has been taken as the indicator. This will now be replaced by a basket of different crudes. Differences in pricing on the basis of the suitability of various crudes has so far been fixed in accordance with the OPEC price index, but apparently under the new pricing system considerable attention has been paid to the problem of price differentials. At any rate, OPEC's return to the system of fixed prices actually means that other systems like netbacks will be eliminated. It should be pointed out that the tendency of some OPEC members who adopted a volatile pricing system during the past few years was

one of the main reasons for the drop in oil prices; and Saudi Arabia was the pioneer in this. Of course, we must bear in mind that the decisions of the pricing and quota committees are still unofficial and have to be ratified by the upcoming OPEC oil ministers' meeting.

Despite the differences that may arise in fixing quotas in order to reach the $18 per barrel price, most oil experts foresee that with the onset of winter and some other political and economic factors, OPEC may be able to attain the price of $18 per barrel by the end of this year or by the beginning of 1987. However, this price should not be considered as OPEC's ultimate goal. Undoubtedly the same levers that can increase the price to $18-$20 per barrel can be effective in raising it to $28 as well. This is something that the Islamic Republic of Iran has always maintained.

Our country's oil minister, Mr Aqazadeh, said in an interview last Thursday, on the eve of OPEC's pricing committee meeting, that the price of $18 per barrel is the first stage in OPEC's campaign for a price of $28 in the near future. The fixing of the price of $18 can be interpreted as an interim OPEC measure, pending the attainment of the desired price. According to him, if Iran's programs on prices and production are implemented, surely within a year or 18 months the said price can be reached. Among the devices he mentioned to monitor oil prices are controls on production ceilings, avoiding sales based on the netback system, and eliminating discounts.

In any case, the Western media and some members of OPEC are trying to portray the $18 price as final and reasonable. When compared to prices under $10, $18 seems considerable, but we should bear in mind that even a price of $28 a barrel is neither reasonable nor fair. The majority of forecasts on the demand for oil, the lifespan of the world's oil reserves, the failure to find perfect substitutes for oil, and so on, in the 1990's will confirm this claim.

Iraqi Reprisals Against Kurdish Muslims Viewed

LD172200 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 17 Nov 86

[Text] According to a report of the news bulletin of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq, after the unprecedented Fath-1 operations in northern regions of Iraq the Ba'thist regime razed 80 Kurdish villages to the ground. According to this report, the Ba'thist armed forces savagely attacked these villages from land and air along the Kirkuk-Sulaymaniyah axis and at the same time martyred about 200 of the villagers, mostly women and children.

Many other reports indicate that following the Fath-1 operations, which were coordinated with the combatants of the Islamic Republic and the Iraqi Kurdish warriors, in retaliation for these operations the Iraqi Ba'thist regime has launched merciless attacks against the Muslim Kurdish people for cooperating with the Islamic Republic of Iran, and these attacks are still in progress.

Kurdish 'Splinter Group' Member Killed

LD171740 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 17 Nov 86

[Text] Today it was announced that Hakim Reza'i, a member of the Central Committee of the defunct Kurdish Democratic Party, and four deceived members of that splinter group were killed in clashes with the Muslim fighters. In these clashes, which took place in Khurmatu village in the district of Saqqez, seven counterrevolutionaries were wounded.

Also during the past few days six deceived members of the splinter groups who had become aware of the hollowness of the goals of their leaders, in an expression of regret for their past shameful acts, surrendered to the forces of Islam.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

2 Iraqi Aircraft Downed in Mahshahr

LD171142 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 17 Nov 86

[Text] According to a report by the Joint Staff Command of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Armed Forces yesterday, two more Iraqi intruding aircraft were downed over Mahshahr region by defense units of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

According to the same report, in the course of yesterday's intrusion by enemy aircraft over Mahshahr region, a total of three Iraqi Air Force aircraft were downed at 1231, 1254, and 1305 respectively.

Communique No 2,657

LD161701 Tehran IRNA in English 1645 GMT 16 Nov 86

[Text] Tehran, Nov 16, IRNA — An intruding Iraqi warplane was shot down in Bandar-e Mahshahr, Khuzestan Province at 12:31 hours (09:01) GMT) Sunday.

Joint Staff Communique No 2,657 here Sunday said that the Iranian patrol boats intercepted four cargo ships and tankers in the Hormuz Strait Saturday but let them continue voyage since no Iraqi-bound cargo was found on board them.

The communique said that Iranian artillery fire inflicted fresh losses on Iraqi economic, military centers in southern areas of Iraq Saturday and Sunday.

Iranian Muslim combatants checked Iraqi engineering operations and troops' relocation especially in Nahr 'Anbar, Bejliyeh, Talaiyeh and Majnun islands silencing enemy artillery fire and inflicting casualties and losses on Iraq's infantry and armoured units.

Reconnaissance flights of Iraqi helicopters in Bubiyan operational region were also checked by Iranian Muslim forces, according to the communique.

In western and northwestern fronts Muslim combatants shelled Iraqi supply columns. They also inflicted casualties and losses on enemy forces in Piranshah, Sar Dasht, and Marivan operational regions.

Iranian Gendarmerie forces maintained fire supremacy in areas under their control, destroying several Iraqi vehicles and killing or wounding a number of enemy soldiers, the communique concluded.

Communique No 2,658

LD171559 Tehran IRNA in English 1542 GMT 17 Nov 86

[Text] Tehran, Nov 17, IRNA — Fighter bombers heavily bombarded military and industrial installations in the Iraqi cities of Kifri (Kirkuk Province) and Irbil at 04:03 and 04:08 hours GMT Monday, inflicting [words indistinct] troops. The fighters returned safely to bases, said a military communique here.

Joint Staff Communique Number 2,658 said that three Iraqi warplanes were shot down by Iranian surface-to-air fire in Mahshahr at 12:31, 12:54 and 13:05 hours local time [words indistinct] hours GMT) Sunday.

Iraqi forces sustained considerable casualties and losses when heavy Iranian long range artillery fire hit enemy military and economic installations, the communique said.

The communique said that a number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded, parts of enemy positions set ablaze, and two command jeeps together with two engineering vehicles destroyed in parts of the southern and western fronts in artillery duels with Iranian Gendarmerie forces on Sunday.

In the northwestern fronts, the communique said, heavy casualties and losses were inflicted on Iraqi troops. One enemy motor pool and several gun emplacements were also destroyed in Panjwin by Iranian artillery fire.

Two convoys of Iraqi patrols were shelled in Shur Shirin and Chazabeh operational theaters, southern fronts, on Friday as a result of which enemy patrols incurred several casualties and were forced to flee, according to the communique.

Elsewhere, the communique said, movement of an Iraqi motorized column as well as enemy engineering operations were checked in Mehran and Eyn-Khowsh operational theaters on Sunday.